

## Opinion

Our worst summer jobs • 6



## Sports



Euros let Canada's soccer fans taste vicarious victories • 15

## Arts



The Bachelorette a trashy TV treat • 12

June 11th, 2012 ■ Summer Issue No. 1 ■ Volume 103

# THE gateway

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## Feature



DAN MCKECHNIE

### Local Gear Gurus talk about Edmonton bike culture and offer tips for keeping your ride in top shape

#### GRADING CHANGES

## U of A asserts bell curve grading not mandatory

Katelyn Hoffart

STAFF REPORTER ■ @KATELYNHOFART

The University of Alberta decided to clear up misconceptions that the bell curve was a compulsory form of grading last week.

A General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting on May 28 amended the wording in the university's Grading and Assessment Policy, clearing up confusing lines that previously led to a general belief that the curve was a mandatory form of grading, especially in Science and Engineering classes.

The bell curve continues to remain available to professors, giving them freedom to evaluate students as they see fit — as long as they adhere to the Assessment and Grading policy as well as faculty or departmental grading policies.

"The new policy allows a little more flexibility for each faculty or department. I

suspect there will be a lot more diversity in how grades are determined across campus," said Students' Union Vice-President (Academic) Dustin Chelen.

However, Chelen added that the SU has been concerned that faculty-specific grading procedures have not always been clearly identified for students.

"Departments could have had their own grading curve without ever telling (their) students, and students would have no understanding where their grades were coming from at the end of the term," Chelen said.

"My hope, though, is that with the explicit elimination of the curve (from university policy), the instructors will understand that it is valuable and necessary to communicate to students how grades are determined."

PLEASE SEE **CURVE** • PAGE 2

#### BEARS HOCKEY

## Puck Bears get new coach

Bears Hockey alumnus Ian Herbers fills vacant head coach position

Andrew Jeffrey

SPORTS EDITOR ■ @ANDREW\_JEFFREY

After a month of searching that featured a number of rumoured applicants for the vacant position, the University of Alberta hockey Golden Bears have a new head coach. As he returns to the U of A, Ian Herbers brings with him the attitude: "Once a Bear, always a Bear."

After playing for the Bears from 1989-1992, Herbers now returns to the U of A with an impressive coaching background. He spent the last three seasons behind the bench of the American Hockey League's Milwaukee Admirals — arguably the second best hockey league in the world. But when he got the opportunity to come back to the Golden Bears, he couldn't pass it up.

"It's like coming back home to family," Herbers said. "I was very fortunate when I was there to have Clare Drake and Bill Moores as my coaches, and I want to keep building on

that tradition that they established, and keep developing hockey players and making people better by the time they leave — not only at hockey, but as people."

Herbers enters a situation that's unique for any past Golden Bears head coach. With last year's head coach Stan Marple promoted to General Manager at the end of last season, there will be someone in place to take care of most of the off-ice business, allowing Herbers to focus on on-ice issues more than any previous U of A hockey coach. Marple hopes this will make things easier for Herbers as he knows from his experience as head coach last year.

"Last year it was very difficult for me because I didn't have a full-time assistant coach," Marple explained. "Running the day-to-day operations might have taken away a little bit of time from practice preparation, game preparation and player development."

PLEASE SEE **COACH** • PAGE 13



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colophon

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contributors

Jonathan Faerber, Kate Black, Katherine Speur, Jacquelin Gregoire, AmirAli Sharifi, Antony Ta, Hamdi Hissawi, Zaineb Hussein



STAND OUT Edmonton's annual Pride Festival kicked off on June 8, with a parade down 102 Avenue on Saturday. Festival events run until June 17 AMIRALI SHARIFI

# University clarifies range of choices for systems of student evaluation

CURVE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He added that there has been a lack of communication between the university and the SU regarding the recent changes. The future of the curve has been in debate since 2009, but Chelen said that the SU has not been consulted regarding grading policy changes and amendments in almost a year.

“What’s really critical is that there are lots of different ways (to evaluate grades), but you have to communicate that clearly with your students.”

BRENDA LESKIW  
SENIOR ASSOCIATE DEAN (STUDENT SERVICES), FACULTY OF SCIENCE

“In April at an Academic Standards meeting there was a brand new policy presented surrounding assessment and grading, the largest part including the curve,” Chelen said.

“The Students’ Union hadn’t seen the policy between May 2011 and April 2012 so we certainly had some major concerns with it.”

This lapse in communication resulted from a number of changes within the Office of the

Provost, where the project was passed to the Vice-Provost’s office. Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) Bill Connor and his team were made responsible for directing the policy.

Prior to this, two years were spent by Professor Bob Luth, who at the time served as the Provost’s Fellow, doing widespread consultation across campus with student focus groups to generate a report on assessment and grading, although he did not have a direct part in the new wording of the policy.

Although the SU was not directly consulted on the changes to the policy, the GFC also has substantial student membership every year, as well as two members of the SU executive team.

Senior Associate Dean (Student Services) for the Faculty of Science, Brenda Leskiw, was one of the key presenters of the policy changes. Leskiw said the policy is the first step to invite faculties from across campus into a conversation about future grading assessment policies and procedures.

“What we now need to do as an institution is begin those conversations — at the department and faculty level, those discussions need to happen,” Leskiw said.

“What’s really critical is that there are lots

of different ways (to evaluate grades), but you have to communicate that clearly with your students.”

Leskiw added that larger classes pose challenges for professors, who cannot get to know their students well enough to assess them properly. In the past, the bell curve has been used to protect students from unfair and poorly-written exams.

“We have to work on it at both ends and make sure that we don’t get grade inflation, but (also) be fair if the evaluation tool doesn’t work as well as we hoped,” she said on using the curve as a grading method.

The next steps have not yet been clearly outlined for what will happen to students’ grades in the future, leaving the curve and the way students are assessed still up for debate.

“What I want to see at the end of the day is for students to know where their grades come from — it shouldn’t be a mysterious process,” said Chelen.

“I think we have work to do, making sure that course outcomes are clearly communicated and lined up with how students are assessed.”

The changes to the grading policy will be implemented in the fall semester across all faculties and departments on campus.



The dead man's face is slightly gray. You are making a visual here. But inside something is screaming, 'My God.' But it is time to work. Deal with the rest later. If you can't do it, get out of the game.

- KEVIN CARTER

gateway  
photo

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WE'RE BITTERLY IRONIC.  
PHOTO MEETINGS FRIDAYS AT  
4 PM IN 3-04 SUB.

online at THEGATEWAYONLINE.CA





DAN MCKECHNIE

# U of A research team probes charging powers of eggshells

Eggshell membranes identified as potential future green and efficient power source

Antony Ta  
NEWS STAFF ■ @ANTONYTA88

Chicken eggs could become a new energy resource, according to a research team at the University of Alberta.

Although eggshells are usually considered a waste product, the David Mitlin research group at the U of A believes they can be used to charge future electronic devices in minutes, or even seconds, instead of hours. Aided by a discovery grant from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), the group has developed an eggshell “membrane” — a macroporous carbon film to charge supercapacitors far more quickly than normal batteries.

Post-doctoral member Zhi Li has been spearheading the egg shell membrane idea, and describes the ease by which he transformed his food waste into a useful engineered material.

“I just tried a normal egg that I bought from Costco,” Li said. He added that he has long been an avid admirer of the biochemistry of egg shell membranes and their inherent structures.

After Li washes and removes the hard shell with acid, the membrane is ready for processing at high activation temperatures.

“I carbonize it, (which) makes it into carbon fibre (with) nitrogen on the surface,” he explained. “It is a pretty cool structure.”

The high percentage of nitrogen in eggshell membranes is a core advantage of high capacitance. The higher the energy and power

density promoted by a material, the more ideal it becomes for use in supercapacitors.

“Nitrogen reacts with electrolytes and stores more energy,” Li said. “With nitrogen in our eggshells, compared to traditional carbon materials which have oxygen groups, we have 1.5 to two times more energy.”

membrane, (and) the process is pretty green,” Li said.

“There (are) definitely enough egg shells — more than I can imagine. The cooking industry uses processed eggs, but they just use the liquid egg. They separate the liquid from the egg and just throw the shell away.”

Perhaps the most overlooked

■ **“Electrical vehicles need to charge and discharge quickly, (and) a battery simply cannot give the necessary energy. Egg shell (membranes) have a very unique structure and their cheapness and functionality allow for broader application.**

ZHI LI  
POST-DOCTORAL MEMBER, DAVID MITLIN RESEARCH GROUP

Li believes eggshell membrane supercapacitors have huge potential for a number of industries.

“Electrical vehicles need to charge and discharge quickly, (and) a battery simply cannot give the necessary energy,” Li mentioned. “Egg shell (membranes) have a very unique structure, and their cheapness and functionality allow for broader application.”

Aside from structural and biochemical composition, eggshell membranes are ideal because of their abundance and ease of preparation. In addition, the source and processing of eggshell membranes are organic and environmentally friendly, a factor that could set it apart should the demand for such technology ever increase.

“In general I use very few chemicals to get a useful eggshell

property of the eggshell membrane is its durability over time. This may indicate that it is not only efficient, but sustainable in its usage, according to Li.

“I don’t want to say it lasts forever, but its life cycle is up to 10,000 cycles — which for normal use could be up to a couple of years.”

Li believes his eggshell research will encourage others to look into applications of natural systems and materials for solving future engineering problems. Although he used chicken eggs, it is possible that other eggs have the same potential.

“Every single natural material has an advantage and disadvantage, and you have to integrate them into a system to eliminate the disadvantages (and) emphasize the advantages,” he said. “This is especially true of egg shell membranes.”

that market modifiers — which in the past led to giant leaps in tuition — were a one-time initiative.

The University of Alberta’s Students’ Union has been fighting to close the market modifiers loophole, which has in the past allowed universities to circumvent tuition caps.

SU Vice-President (External) Petros Kusmu said that the Minister’s statements will give current and future students peace of mind when it comes to tuition increases. He added that there are

no current plans for future use of market modifiers.

“I’m not completely happy yet ... I’ll be able to sleep soundly at night when we close the market modifiers loophole, and until that happens we still have a lot of work to do,” Kusmu said.

Khan has also expressed his feelings about non-instructional fees, which the SU has been advocating against as well. According to Khan, any new non-instructional fees must add value to the education of the students paying them.



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Zesty cheese  
Doritos have  
mysteriously gone  
missing from *the*  
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team's desk. Like  
the Hardy Boys,  
they'll stop  
at nothing  
to find the  
perpetrator of this  
disgraceful act.

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NEWS MEETINGS FRIDAYS AT 3 PM IN 3-04 SUB

## news brief

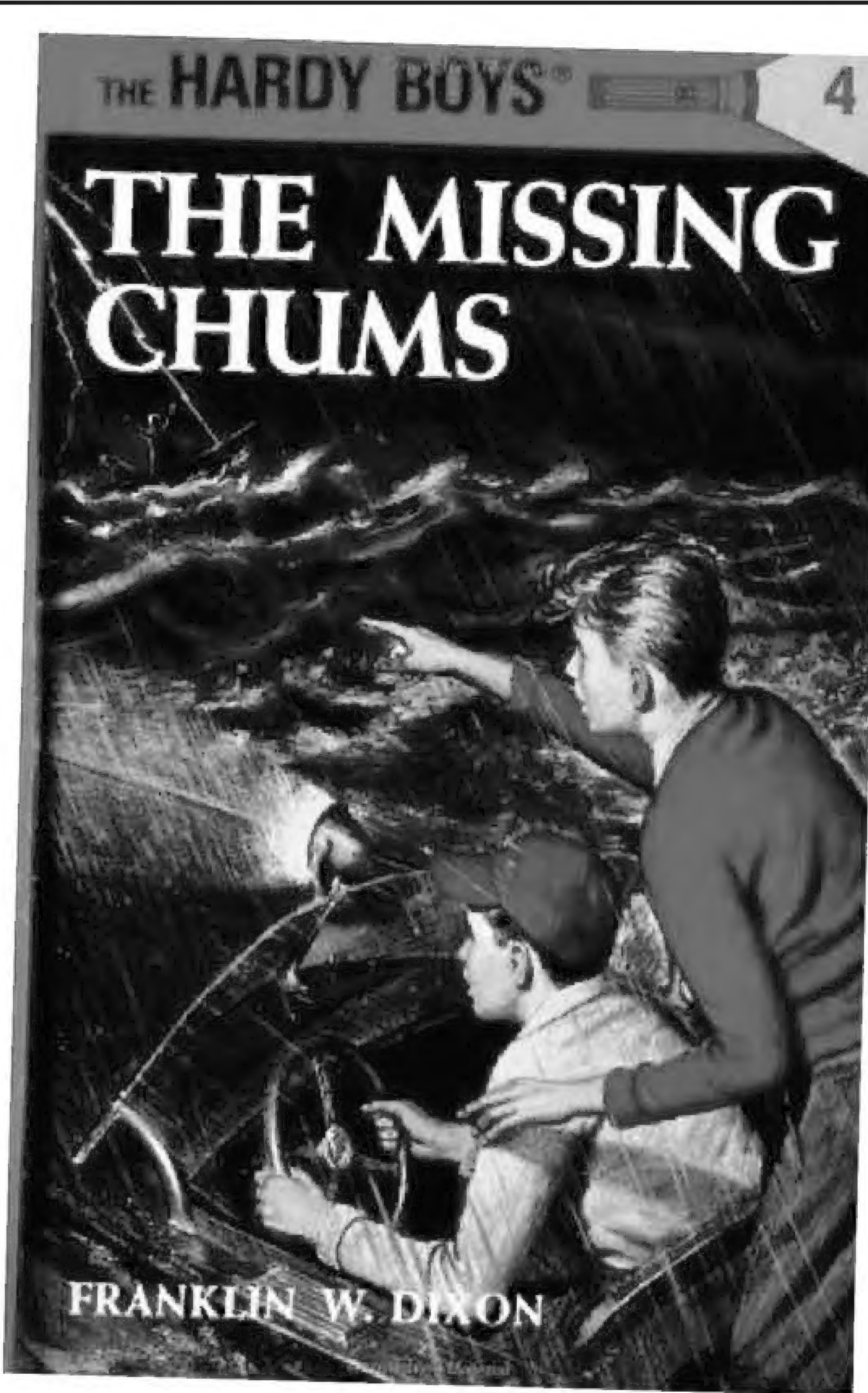
COMPILED BY April Hudson

### MARKET MODIFIERS OFF THE TABLE

Students may not need to be concerned about one kind of tuition increase, according to statements made by Alberta’s new Minister of Enterprise and Advanced Education — at least for this year.

Minister Stephen Khan, who was appointed to his position at the beginning of May, said last month





Dearest Gateway newsie hopeful, where you have been all our lives? We know you so desperately long to write news, so why not make that trek to the third floor of SUB and fill that hole in our hearts? As our friends the Hardy Boys say, we're missing you chum.

**gateway news**

**Your gateway to misconstruing book titles for personal gain**

**NEWS MEETINGS  
FRIDAYS AT 3 PM  
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# EAS prof helps verify source of organic Martian material

**Hamdi Hissawi**  
NEWS WRITER

Thanks to the contribution of a researcher at the University of Alberta, speculation over the origin of a mysterious organic compound found in Martian meteorites has been put to rest.

A recent study investigated the presence of an organic compound in Martian meteorites that landed on Earth. What this study reveals, however, is that the carbon found in these meteorites originated from Mars' mantle layer — the region between the planet's crust and the core — and not as the result of any life activity.

Dr. Chris Herd, an associate professor for the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the U of A and an expert in interpreting Martian meteorites, contributed to the study by looking at the conditions that helped to preserve this organic material in the rocks.

Unlike graphite, which is made entirely out of carbon, Herd found that the compound in the Martian samples contains other components, like hydrogen, that make it organic and usable in biological processes.

"It's like the material that life either uses or produces," Herd said. "So in that sense it was definitely a surprise to find it in there."

According to Herd, all Martian meteorites that have landed on Earth are igneous rocks that began as magma — molten rock deep below the planet's surface. The magma is then pushed to the surface as a lava flow, much like volcanic eruptions that happen on Earth.



Once above ground, the rock cools and settles before being ejected from the surface by some force, like an asteroid collision, which sends it hurtling into space to make its way towards our planet.

"The significance of the study is that the carbonaceous material — the carbon rich material — was actually found locked up inside the crystals that formed as the rock was cooling off in the lava flow," Herd said.

Unlike Earth, Mars does not have plate tectonics that cycle carbon by pushing crust material back into the mantle. This one-way flow of carbon suggests that this material is coming from inside Mars itself, and has been there since the planet formed

more than 4 billion years ago.

Because weathering processes, like those caused by wind and water, break down these igneous rocks and release carbonaceous content onto the surface, it is expected that NASA's Curiosity Rover, due to land on Mars this August, will encounter the organic material in its search for signs of Martian life.

"It could confuse things and say that we found evidence of life when we've shown in this study that it has nothing to do with life," Herd said.

"The timing of this study is good in that it shows that there's this additional source of carbonaceous material, and it's something that the team members of the Curiosity mission should be aware of."

## SCIENCE PRESTIGE

# First-year student named a Google international science fair finalist

**Zaineb Hussein**  
NEWS WRITER

Google has chosen a first-year student from the University of Alberta as one of 90 finalists from around the globe for its international science fair.

Danny Yuhao Huang, a Science student in the first year of his undergraduate degree, has devoted the past few years to his research in finding a way to halt the growth of cancer. Huang gained attention for his project by receiving first place at the Canadian-Wide Science Fair last year.

"When Google's science fair came up, it gave me another opportunity for me to participate in a science fair and again to share my knowledge with the public — and get more people to know about what I'm doing," Huang said.

Huang, 18 years old, has been working on his research under the supervision of Dr. Sujata Persad, an associate professor with the Department of Pediatrics.

"I started working on this project two years ago, (in) the summer of Grade 11. What motivated me to do research was the fact that my grandfather died of cancer, and I really wanted in one way or another to contribute to the field of cancer research," Huang said.

Huang focused his attention on the protein beta-catenin, a cancer-promoting agent. Through his research, he developed a

modification to the protein that could help suppress the growth of cancer cells. This turned out to be a huge breakthrough, and earned him a place as an author in Persad's research, which is in the process of being published.

**“I didn’t know anything when I was coming in from Grade 11 — and to be able to understand the research project and contribute my own ideas (is) very significant.**

DANNY YUHAO HUANG  
GOOGLE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FAIR FINALIST

Being able to study in the only lab in the world that focuses on this modification, Huang stresses that without Persad, none of his accomplishments would have been possible.

"I just want to emphasize the importance of teachers and mentors in this process, because without the guidance of Dr. Persad the project would not have been completed," he said.

"I didn't know anything when I was coming in from Grade 11 — and to be able to understand the research project and contribute my own ideas (is) very significant."

Persad is the founder of this

research on modification, and allowed Huang to work as part of her team. Over the past two years, Huang has helped push Persad's research in the right direction, contributing heavily to the project.

"This particular project is an extremely complicated process — the methodology is very complicated, it is not the easiest project to work with (and) the concepts are very complicated," Persad said.

"I actually gave Danny a choice when he wanted to do this, because I had two other projects running in the lab which are in my understanding quite a bit simpler, but he chose this. I said, 'You know, Danny, this project is very complicated, do you still want to do it?' and he said yes, and he did it."

The research is still just starting out, but Persad is proud that Google is taking interest in the project.

"It's in its baby stages right now but we expect it to make milestones, and I am very happy people have chosen this out of so many international projects," Persad said. "It was chosen as one of the best — (that) tells me we're on the right track."

The Google competition takes place online, allowing students from around the world to upload their science research and experiments and compete with like-minded science students from around the globe.

Google will narrow the finalists down to 15 and fly them to California on July 23 to announce the winners.



# Opinion

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Opinion meetings Wednesdays at 5 p.m. in 3-04 SUB. C'mon by!

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

## Democracy is more than just whining

ONE THIRD OF QUEBEC'S STUDENTS ARE ON STRIKE, DEMANDING A tuition freeze. Or free tuition. Or less debt. Or civil rights. Or the elimination of capitalism. Or no more people enjoying themselves at the Canadian Grand Prix. No, actually, now they're all nude and it's about sexualization of women at the Grand Prix. Whatever it is they want, they're going to hold the streets hostage until they get it, all the time yelling that farce of a slogan: "This is what democracy looks like."

Maybe we should actually have a conversation about what democracy really looks like before we use slogans that demonize opponents as anti-democratic by definition. Ignoring the largely semantic truth that Canada is a constitutional monarchy and not truly a democracy, we are in all practical respects a representative democracy. Rather than submit to mob rule or the horrific, uninformed whims of a direct democracy, we elect representatives to various governing bodies.

And no, Occupy's little experiments with direct democracy don't validate that system. What may work for a relatively small, self-selected group of idealists with generally compatible political views will not scale up. No amount of hand twinkles can deal with the diversity of political beliefs present in the real world and the number of people holding them.

Which is why we elect people to do the governing for us. They get a few years in power to enact those things that they promised, and are trusted to make the right decisions when new issues arise. Should they fail, the people can oust them come election time. The running of the country is protected from the endless consultation and bickering that a direct democracy would require, while ensuring that nobody will be stuck with autocratic or unpopular rule that would necessitate bloody revolution. Because for all the rhetoric and Che Guevara shirts, revolution is not sexy.

This system isn't perfect for the same reason no government will ever be perfect: too many people have too many different opinions about how things should be run. But the answer isn't to take to the streets and whine about every little thing that bothers you — especially when your whining begins to actually interfere with people's freedom to do what they want, as is happening with the Grand Prix and will likely happen with other festivals this summer in Quebec.

Many of those in attendance are rich tourists that could generally be categorized and demonized as "the elite." But many are hard-working lower and middle class fans who saved all year to enjoy themselves. Protesting this event, or even demanding to be able to use it as a platform as CLASSE would like, is like walking into a crowded movie theatre and giving a speech on how hard students have it. Just because you think your cause is the most important thing in the world doesn't mean you get to hijack others' time.

All the pots and pans in the world won't legitimize a minority declaring its interests more important than the interests of those who it demands pay for them. And to its credit, the Charest government is not giving in to the demands of a mob. This is a government instilled with the confidence of the people of Quebec, and for better or worse, they have full authority to make the decision on tuition rates. If the protesters truly are boasting such numbers that "this is what democracy looks like," they will have no problem electing a new government with representatives pledging lower or frozen tuition.

As for Bill 78, if it's unconstitutional, the courts will strike those parts of it down. That's one of the reason why we have courts, as a check on the power of the legislators. But that bad move by the Charest government, while deserving of criticism, should not distract from the hollowness of the general protests.

Accepting that you're not always entitled to change right now may not be as exciting as making noise, disrupting traffic, yelling "scab!" throwing things at police, dismissing all dissent aimed at your dissent as a "media conspiracy" or walking around Montreal nude, but often what's exciting isn't what's fair to everyone. If a decision made by the Charest government is rejected by the Quebec people as a whole, and not just those students and sympathizers who show up on the streets, we'll find out. But we can't simply let whoever shows up with a pot make the decisions — every person who did not join the protest gets an equal say too.

If Charest isn't taking tuition, debt, civil rights, the evils of capitalism or the Grand Prix and its sexualization of women seriously enough for you, he can be removed in the next election. Because enough people united around a set of issues to remove from power those who they deem unworthy of it by the peaceful means of casting a ballot in a system where any voter may run for office with clear rules on term lengths and with judicial power separated from legislative? Well, it won't fit on a sign, but it beats throwing around the word "democracy" with no actual regard for what those who disagree with you think. The protesters aren't using physical force, but when disruption reaches certain thresholds, it is effective force — and that is not what democracy looks like.

**Ryan Bromsgrove**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



ROSS VINCENT

## letters to the editor

### FROM THE WEB

### Eliminating the curve requirement not the end of the world

(Re: "U of A eliminates requirement to curve grades," by Katelyn Hoffart, June 04)

This is a great idea, and I know a lot of classes outside of sciences aren't curved and follow a guideline, but science classes and other faculties weigh finals at 65-75 per cent... Not sure how this would help. They'll have to readjust a lot more, like changing the way their exams are written, in order to make up for it. I transferred from MacEwan, and their marking guidelines are well thought out, and they also make their tests fair. Hope to see professors considering this for the coming semester.

**"Arya"**  
VIA WEB

### Students should be given the grades they've earned

(Re: "U of A eliminates requirement to curve grades," by Katelyn Hoffart, June 4)

The curve was always "optional," in the sense that the guidelines for grade distributions given by the University were just that, guidelines. Unless faculty, departmental, or other policy required instructors to use a set curve, this decision was left up to individual instructors. Some used it, some didn't.

However, I feel the elimination of the curve will be used as yet another excuse to inflate grades. Students are often

given grades without earning them, and GPAs are on the rise although there is no evidence student quality is also increasing. Grades are supposed to be a differentiator, an indication of ranking against others with the same opportunity. If everyone gets an A, did everyone truly demonstrate equal mastery of the material? I'd rather earn grades than be given high marks that I don't deserve — as long as everyone else is treated in the same manner.

In large classes, the curve corrects for many things, including overly easy or difficult exams and poor instruction. It's inherently unbiased and fair. Clearly it can't be used in small classes, but in classes with lots of students, it's hard to see where complaints could come from.

Regardless, the elimination of the curve will lead to more divisive grading practices across faculties, departments, and even sections of the same course. Being graded against peers is generally a good indicator of achievement; I'm not sure what administration is trying to accomplish by eliminating what is probably the fairest grading system currently at the University.

**Sam Ferrey**  
VIA WEB

### The bell curve should be there to protect students

(Re: "U of A eliminates requirement to curve grades," by Katelyn Hoffart, June 4)

Suddenly, I want to transfer. What happens when you get a prof that's still writing tests like last year? I had a class where the average on pretty much everything was 40%. Are we all going to fail? Kiss all professional,

and graduate programs good-bye. Not because we're bad students, but because some tests ARE awful. When I started school, someone told me that the bell curve is what is there to protect the student body from bad exams. Now what?

**"Ashley A"**  
VIA WEB

### University should have been more open about grading changes

(Re: "U of A eliminates requirement to curve grades," by Katelyn Hoffart, June 4)

Personally, I don't know how to feel. I've been saved and destroyed by the curve in multiple classes. What I dislike is the University's failure to notify the implementation of a new grading system; that is, if it even happens. I don't want to be a test rat for the year that the profs make "fair" assessments. Goodbye GPA.

**"BN"**  
VIA WEB

Letters to the editor should be sent to [letters@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:letters@gateway.ualberta.ca) (no attachments, please).

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters should be no longer than 350 words and should include the author's name, student ID number, program and year of study.



# Take a vacation this summer and avoid crappy jobs



Working during the summer is a good source of income for students. But every once in a while, you get stuck with the job from hell. Heed our warnings and don't ruin your summer by avoiding these places.

April Hudson

If you ever feel like you've missed out on the experience of crappy summer jobs, go to a small town and apply for work at the local landfill.

Working at a landfill probably isn't the worst job you could ever have. After a couple months, your nose gets used to the smell of festering garbage and everything starts to smell pleasantly like fried chicken — although that's partly the piles of rotting KFC. You also never have to worry about customers trying to get your phone number. Which is a plus, I guess.

However, landfills also attract creepy people, and my co-workers were the cream on top of the large, smelly pie, as proved by the 50 year-old guy who still lived with his mom and liked to pull used pornographic magazines out of the landfill for lunchtime discussion topics.

One thing's for sure, as far as a crappy job goes, working at a landfill will be one that gives you life experience. For example, the first day I started, a greasy old farmer dropped off a bag of human excrement and I got to shovel it into the garbage pile. It sure was nice to start the summer on a high note.



HE WORKS HARD FOR THE MONEY Summer jobs are seriously not worth the hassle that comes with dishpan hands. DAN MCKECHNIE

Katherine Spaur

Personally, I've never had a bad summer job. But one thing I would despise more than anything would be a job as a carnie. In case you don't already know, "carnie" usually refers to a person stereotypically portrayed as a perverted, greasy drug addict with a brain the size of a peanut and a high libido.

Let's just be honest for a second: you may think you'll catch a sweet tan, help out some hot babes and make mad cash by working at a carnival. I'm sorry to crush your little dreams, but the fact is, the life of a carnie is an unfortunate one. The heat, the long hours, the shitty pay and the overall disrespect you receive from the hundreds of passersby seems beyond unpleasant. Watching people drink giant lemonades while you sweat profusely under your cotton t-shirt is just not anyone's idea of a good time.

Also, can you imagine the diet of a carnie? Some people may enjoy

devouring corndogs and slush puppies on a daily basis, but most of the food at carnivals has actually been sitting out in the heat for the majority of the day. As a carnival worker I'd imagine that you develop a pretty strong immune system from all that bacteria. But don't be surprised if you happen to get diabetes along the way too.

Next time you see the guy taking tickets for the tilt-a-whirl, take a close look at him and feel some pity. The poor carnies need it.

Andrew Jeffrey

Imagine, if you dare, your life with the most unrewarding and irrelevant job possible. A job you landed because you needed to get paid, but you don't have anything worthwhile to justify your salary. So, instead you make \$10 an hour and tell yourself "That's better than nothing!"

Your days are spent helping strangers find their way through a store

that's designed for easy navigation, while hiding behind sales racks anytime somebody you know enters the store so they won't see your shame. That shame is saved only for the many customers who may ask for your assistance but who know that in every other facet of life, they're much more successful than you are.

You clean up spills, take out the garbage and perform all the menial tasks that no one else has the time or inclination to do. The supervisors giving you these tasks serve as a frightening reminder of what will happen to you if you stay in this job long enough to hear your coworkers whisper 'lifer' in hushed tones whenever you walk by. Most humiliating of all are those dreaded four words they'll say to you that lead only to a hellacious torture of forced smiles and fake cheer returned with nothing but cold, heartless apathy: "You're greeter this hour."

Worst of all, you are not the backbone of this store as you will inevi-

tably delude yourself into believing — you're easily replaceable.

Despite all the expertise you may think you've gained in box cutting, shelf stocking, cash registering, money saving, customer servicing, aisle cleaning, truck loading, product sorting, deal offering, abuse taking, ladder climbing, store greeting and ass kissing, it's nothing that your bosses won't easily pass on to a new employee with a 20-minute video and a half day of training.

You work at a department store. This is your life and it's ending one 27-hour schedule on a holiday weekend at a time.

Darcy Ropchan

Imagine spending a sunny summer in the water. It sounds beautiful, doesn't it? That was my summer of 2006. Except instead of spending sunny days outside, I was stuck in a dark humid kitchen. And instead of dipping my feet in nice clear water at the beach, I was wrist deep in stagnant dish water. That was how I spent my summer vacation as a dishwasher.

When you're younger, summer jobs are supposed to be a good way to earn a little extra income and teach yourself about responsibility. But it's hard to build character when you're stuck picking other people's chewed up food out of fork tines.

The dishes just keep flying at you like a never ending hail storm. If the servers aren't bringing you an endless parade of plates with melted cheese stuck to them, there's usually a few pots and pans flying at your head from the kitchen. Not to mention the dishwasher made my fingers all pruny. This job was totally not worth the minimum wage.

SPORTS YOU ONLY WISH  
YOU COULD PLAY: **Dog Surfing**

A black and white photograph of a dog, possibly a Weimaraner, standing on a surfboard and riding a wave.

Grab your board and your dog and catch a wave! Oh wait, we're in Edmonton.

gateway sports | SPORTS MEETINGS THURSDAYS AT 4 PM IN 3-04 SUB

online at THEGATEWAYONLINE.CA/SPORTS



# No zero policy won't teach kids



**Darcy Ropchan**  
OPINION EDITOR

It's hard to believe so many people would be cheering on a teacher for giving a zero. But suspended high school physics teacher Lynden Dorval has become a local hero for refusing to adhere to the Edmonton Public School's no-zero policy and giving failing grades to students with incomplete work.

The problem with a no zero policy is that it teaches students that they don't need to be responsible for themselves or their actions. Although there can be legitimate reasons that a student might be unable to complete work, most teachers are more than willing to accommodate students with special circumstances that require extensions or rescheduled test dates.

Refusing to give zeros does more harm than good to students. They need to be taught that there are real consequences for not completing assigned work. It's no shock to any student that even one zero can drastically change your term mark. If young students know they are responsible for their own academic well-being, it will ensure that they're ready to meet the challenges of real life after grade school — you won't get paid if you don't show up for work.

The claims that failing a student for incomplete work does not accurately represent that student's knowledge are baseless. While it is true that there are many ways to test someone's knowledge in a given field, and each student may have their own challenges, it's hardly too



**YOU HAVE FAILED** Kids who don't complete work should pay the price. DAN MCKECHNIE

much to ask that students hand in their assignments on time. If students hope to make a life for themselves in post-secondary, they're going to need to know how to meet strict deadlines. That's part of the test. You might be the best cook who ever lived, but you don't get any credit until you prepare meals that prove it.

The reasoning behind the policy is that if a student can't complete work, there must be an underlying reason like a behavioural issue. And teachers must do all they can to find out why a student hasn't completed their work. However, a public school teacher shouldn't have to bend over backwards to accommodate all students. A teacher is responsible for teaching the course material and

marking work. They shouldn't have to play detective in order to find out why someone didn't do their homework. There is support for students who genuinely struggle with school or have trouble at home, but withholding zeros in all cases encourages laziness in those who do not have such issues.

This policy may have been designed with good intentions, but it's actually doing a disservice to these kids. If students are pushed through the school system regardless of whether or not they complete assignments, it's only setting them up for failure further down the road. If educators truly care about the children they teach, it's only fair that they show them what happens when work is not completed.

## Proper Twitter etiquette a lost art

All across the internet, people are failing at social media in 140 characters or less.



**Kate Black**  
OPINION STAFF

I just thought I'd let you know that you're doing Twitter wrong. But I want to help you, dear Twitter abuser. I'm writing this to show you the way. Twitter is great, it really is, but your countless Instagrammed shots of food and relentless public arguments are bogging it down.

Ok, maybe I'm overprotective of the website because I don't have hobbies like sports or math or even a social life — but that's not the point. What I'm really trying to say here is that you've got Twitter all wrong, it's bothering me and I'm going to tell you why you're wrong.

First, you're screwing up hashtags. A hashtag is meant to connect the content of what you're tweeting to the larger global community. That's the magic of social networking am I right? It's not a tool for emphasis, nor is it a place to summarize what you couldn't fit otherwise in your allotted 140 characters. So no, #bestthingever doesn't make sense. If nobody is using your hashtag, what's the use of having it there in the first place? It's really quite simple you know — #youscreweduphashtags.

And don't even get me started on your standard Twitter etiquette — or Twitterquette. Following people

just so they follow you back and then promptly unfollowing them to improve your golden "followers to following" ratio just isn't cool. It's the internet equivalent of getting a guy at the bar to buy you a drink, then running away and making out with his best friend instead. So if you're following 300 fewer people than follow you and tweet the same as any other preteen with a smart phone, I see what you're doing, and I'm judging you.

**■ Don't get me wrong, with more than three years on the website under my belt, I've had more than my fair share of awful tweets, and nobody has told me any different.**

Long hair don't care? I don't care either. Condescending Wonka still isn't funny. Stop correcting people's grammar if you barely passed English 30 the second time around — people remember that shit. Your Starbucks cup looks the same as everyone else's, putting it through an Instagram filter doesn't make it artsy.

Re-tweeting Wiz Khalifa doesn't make you a feminist. Criticizing #KONY doesn't make you a revolutionary; just as supporting #KONY doesn't make you an activist. And

Twitter is not Facebook Chat, damn it. Keep your conversations to yourselves.

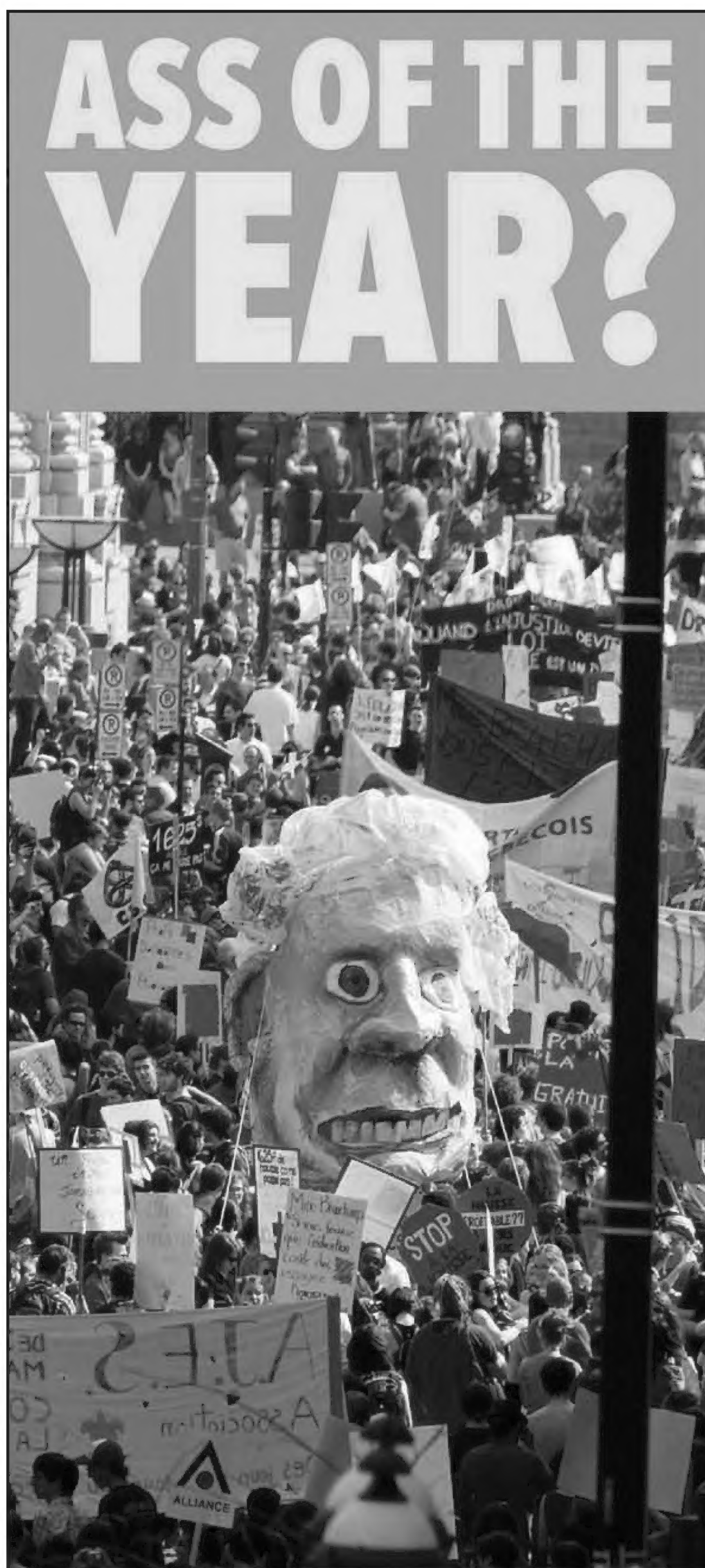
Ok, so I guess I'm taking this Twitter thing too seriously. In the end, I don't have a problem with what people are doing on Twitter, I think I just have a problem with people.

Don't get me wrong, with more than three years on the website under my belt, I've had more than my fair share of awful tweets, and nobody has ever told me any different. So who am I to dictate what people can and cannot share on the Internet?

There's room for everyone here, and it's easy enough to unfollow someone if you can't stand what they're talking about anyway. After all, the only person more annoying than the one who won't shut up about being "forever alone" is the one who can't stop preaching the "right way" to social media, whatever that is.

So hold your head high, food Instagrammers, and YOLO the fuck out, Bad Luck Brian retweeters. You can spam your own feed as much as you want, as long as I'm allowed to be bitter, and judge you from behind my computer screen.

Worse things could happen to people. Even though people who can't figure out how to work a simple micro-blogging site are the bane of my existence, and their inexperience with the internet makes me filled with rage, in the end, it's just Twitter, after all.



Quebec students have been protesting tuition hikes that would take them from being the province with the lowest tuition, to being the province with the still lowest tuition. Freedom fighters, or ass of the year?

**gateway** *opinion*

MEETINGS WEDNESDAY AT 5 IN 3-04 SUB

online at THEGATEWAYONLINE.CA





# .Bike curious

words by Madeline Smith  
photos by Dan McKechnie

**W**hen the training wheels and band-aids finally come off, learning to ride a bike is one of childhood's most significant milestones. But when the carefree days of pedaling around the safety of your neighbourhood are gone, your old beloved bike might be left to rust away in the garage for years. Maybe you'd like to take it back out on the road, but things have gotten a lot more complicated since you first found your balance. Maybe restoring the bike is just too much work, and maybe the realities of the unfriendly Edmonton roads are just too stressful to handle. Luckily, you're not the only one who's uncertain.

Velofest Edmonton League and Organization (VELO) confronts fears like this all the time. To help dispel them, the collective of bike-lovers works year-round to bring the city's various bicycle organizations together, promoting cycling as a positive component of Edmonton's culture. Dubbed Bike Month, June is an especially busy time for VELO, with a full schedule of social events, educational workshops and awareness campaigns all dedicated to making cycling a more visible and accessible activity in the city. From simple meet-ups and outdoor events to more serious discussions about gender relations in the cycling world, June is a chance to celebrate bikes.

Karly Coleman, VELO's executive director, is dedicated to bringing as many new people into the cycling community as possible — whether you're hoping to test the waters of the racing world, or just looking for a new way to get to work or school. It's important, she says, to emphasize the individual needs of each potential cyclist: there's no need to commit to a full suit of racing Lycra or hours of commuting through the snow just yet, nor will you be instantly stereotyped as the odd-ball hipster riding a one-speed through your neighbourhood.

"We are really reaching out to people who are either newcomers to cycling or are

tentative cyclists — bike-curious, we'll call them," she laughs.

While Edmonton roads are often discussed as a notoriously hostile environment for cyclists, Coleman points to a perceived loss of convenience as a major barrier for bike-riders in the city. Cycling is, after all, an "alternative" mode of transportation, and in a sprawling urban centre like Edmonton, automobile use is a consistent norm.

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**"Once (people) take that step — or pedal — inside (the cycling culture), the whole world opens up to them. You're so much more attuned to your environment and your neighbourhood."**

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**Karly Coleman**  
Executive Director, VELO

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Culturally set in our ways, creating an open and inclusive community of cyclists to promote bicycle education is a crucial part of reshaping traditional understandings about transportation.

"I think that in North America particularly, there's a paradigm surrounding car use that

makes every other mode of transportation not as convenient," Coleman says, noting the perception of the car as the quickest, easiest way to go anywhere and do anything you want can be limiting.

"There are lots of options for people to learn how to ride and how to maneuver themselves in the cycling culture. And once they take that step — or pedal — inside, the whole world opens up to them. You're so much more attuned to your environment and your neighbourhood."

Coleman has been a committed cyclist in Edmonton since the early '90s, riding through the unpredictable elements year-round. But even in the wake of the well-founded fear of the city's harsh winters, the push for better cycling education seems to be succeeding with more riders — even in arctic temperatures and deep snow drifts. All you need, Coleman says nonchalantly, is the right preparation and proper warm clothing.

"There was a time when I was winter cycling I could say, 'Hello, how are you?' to every winter cyclist, because I knew all of them," she says. "And currently, that is not the case ... It's just an astonishing amount of cyclists out and about."

Edmonton Bicycle Commuters (EBC) is another significant resource for those





### Mechanical Maintenance

Before you get on the road, make sure you have a bike in good working order. Regular maintenance is important, and you should try to do a basic check every time you ride:

- Make sure there's enough air in your tires. If they're underinflated, you could end up with a flat.
- Check that your brakes are working: you should be able to squeeze them as hard as possible without any mechanical issues.
- Make sure the chain isn't rusty or squeaky.
- Check that the saddle is positioned properly, and not too low. The idea that you should be able to put both feet flat on the ground while sitting on your bike is incorrect.
- Ensure the handlebars and wheels are bolted on tightly.

"If you're really familiar with your bike, chances are as soon as you grab it and start rolling it, if there's something wrong, you're gonna feel it — there's not much to these things," Cliff Vallentgoed, owner of local store Redbike, explains. "But you trust your life to your bicycle, so making sure it's mechanically sound is a good idea."

### Cushioning Your Cranium

Almost all helmets are made from the same basic materials and subject to the same safety standards, so choosing one is more about the kind of riding you'll be doing and the style you like. Helmets with a round, hard plastic shell are more durable for day-to-day use, but more streamlined options with vents might be more comfortable for people who ride athletically.

"The first bicycle helmets were these enormous plastic buckets and they were horrible to wear. They had no ventilation," Vallentgoed says. "You might have seen one in every 50 wearing a helmet. Now helmets are comfortable and they look great, so there's literally a lid for every pot."



### Thwarting Thievery

Thieves can easily cut through locks made of braided steel cables, so it's best to use a sturdier U-lock to protect your bicycle while it's unattended. Keep in mind your wheels also need to be properly prepared and locked up so they aren't easy to remove. Also make sure you scrutinize the location where you lock your bike — in some cases, unusual things like saw marks can mean a thief has prepared the site in advance so they can steal bikes, even if they've been locked up properly.

"Even if you think you've got a very good lock, leaving your bike unattended in a high-risk area like campus can land you in trouble," Vallentgoed says. "It's hard to think like a bike thief, but that's what it takes."

looking to join or get back into the cycling world. In addition to offering classes about basic bike maintenance and road safety, the organization runs two community bike shops where old bicycles are refurbished and resold. With education and accessibility an important part of the organization's mandate, EBC executive director Chris Chan maintains a positive outlook on the ease of navigating the city on two wheels.

"Edmonton's not that bad — the worst part is its size," he says. "The cities of Toronto and Vancouver proper are much smaller, and Edmonton is continuing to expand. Sometimes people in the new neighbourhoods south of the Henday or west of 99th street will email (EBC) and ask, 'What's a nice road to get downtown?' And there really isn't that great of a road, because they live really far away, and you can't get around that."

Conflicts between cyclists and drivers on busy city roads are almost inevitable, and Edmonton is no exception to the difficult balance between bikes and cars sharing the road. But even though Edmontonians behind the wheel have a reputation for being aggressive and ignoring speed limits, Chan has a positive outlook on the relationship between drivers and riders.

"Drivers give you a lot more space when they're passing you in Edmonton, compared

to other major cities I've been in," he says, adding the weather and terrain is also not nearly as treacherous as many think. "It's flat in Edmonton, it's not windy in Edmonton, and we get a lot of dry, sunny days," he points out.

It's hard to perceive the city as a bike-friendly town, Chan says, because of the lack of marked bike paths on the roads. But in recent years, the city has begun to focus more on improving the network of bike lanes available, and while it's far from perfect, it's an encouraging move. However, the lack of regular access to bike routes throughout the city can still be intimidating for an inexperienced cyclist — making an open community of bike riders and educators all the more necessary to help newcomers.

But beyond all the safety and repair training that comes with getting back on a bike, the most important part of cycling education for Coleman goes back to the reason you learned to ride a bike in the first place. With the right attitude, the big scary world of adult cycling might not be so different from your childhood neighbourhood after all.

"It is so fun," she enthuses. "You can always talk about environmentalism, health, how the bicycle is the most efficient machine in the world — but what it comes down to is the most freeing, liberating thing to do in the world is ride a bicycle."



### Cycle Smarts

Make sure you know the rules of the road. Cyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as car drivers, but sharing the road can be a challenge. In general, stay as far right as practicable, but make sure you're visible to other drivers and are still able to navigate hazards on the road.



Arts & Culture

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social  
intercourse

COMPILED BY Kate Black

Improvaganza 2012

Wednesday, June 13 - Saturday, June 23  
at 7:30 p.m.  
Varscona Theatre (10329 83 Ave.), TransAlta Arts  
Barns (10330 84 Ave.) and Garneau Theatre  
(8712 109 St.)  
Starting at \$10 at tixonthesquare.ca

Are you an improv virgin? Don't worry, Improvaganza will be gentle. The 10-day event, hosted by Rapid Fire Theatre, boasts a reputation of Canada's largest improvisation comedy festival, and showcases some of the world's best talent in the sport of live-action theatre. Featuring 11 acclaimed improvisation teams from across North America and Europe, including comedy all-stars like Maria Bamford, Improvaganza will be a hit with improv newbies and connoisseurs alike.

Scenic Route to Alaska

With Long Sharp Teeth and The Fight  
Friday, June 15 at 8 p.m.  
Elevation Room at Transcend Coffee  
(10349 101 Ave.)  
\$10 at yeglive.ca, \$15 at the door

Being a city that flip-flops between dismal winters and uncomfortable summers, it's sometimes easy to forget why you've chosen to live in Edmonton. But every now and then a local band comes around that ties you a bit closer to this city, somehow eliciting a sudden burst of pride for where you come from — like Scenic Route to Alaska. With a catchy indie-folk vibe, this Edmonton-based three-man band has proven themselves to be more than worthy of our attention. Try to catch them live before they make it big, if only to remind yourself why Edmonton's a place to be proud of.

Bry Webb

With Zachary Lucky and Tyler Butler  
Thursday, June 14 at 8 p.m.  
Elevation Room at Transcend Coffee  
(10349 101 Ave.)  
\$20 at yeglive.ca

Speaking of Canadian music, what ever happened to Constantines? The Ontario art punk band is as much of a keystone to our music heritage as maple syrup is to Canadian identity. The band as a whole is currently on hiatus, but lead singer Bry Webb has been busy collaborating with Feist, among others, and working on solo projects. While his own work is more toned-down and delicate than the Constantines' trademark emotional upsurge, his live set promises to satisfy any craving for his original band that's surfaced since they snuck away from the active music scene.

Nextfest

Runs until Sunday, June 17  
See nextfest.ca for a map of locations  
Tickets starting at \$10 at  
tickets.theatrenetwork.ca

When Nextfest first emerged as a collaborative arts festival, it was in the wake of a dismal downturn of artistic opportunities in Edmonton. Seventeen years later, Nextfest continues to ensure that young artists from across the city will have the opportunity to share their collaborations for years to come. This year, Nextfest is hosting performances from all disciplines, ranging from film to art to dance, in venues scattered across the city. With more than 500 artists coming together for more than 50 events, this is one festival you can't miss this summer.



Saskatchewan's favorite comedian  
hits the road for stand-up comedy tour

COMEDY PREVIEW

Brent Butt

WHEN ▶ Friday, June 22 at 8 p.m.

WHERE ▶ Winspear Centre  
(4 Sir Winston Churchill Square)

HOW MUCH ▶ Starting at \$30.50 at the  
Winspear box office

Jacquelin Gregoire  
ARTS & CULTURE STAFF ■ @JAKIG1

While most are more familiar with Brent Butt's work on TV series *Corner Gas* and *Hiccups*, Butt himself is more accustomed to life as a "struggling nightclub comic." With both shows behind him now, Butt is returning to the familiar art of stand-up, with plans to build on his artistic ability through new projects that present fresh challenges but stay true to his comedic persona.

With years of writing comedy under his belt, Butt has no trouble coming up with funny material. And despite the contrast between the two mediums of television and stand-up comedy, his experience as a lone stand-up writer helped strengthen his skills as a collaborative scriptwriter down the road.

"You develop a sense of what's funny and what people are going to laugh

at because you have to rely on that when you're writing the show," Butt says. "You're writing the jokes and hoping they're funny because there is no audience."

When all else fails, Butt resorts to the strategy that got his career rolling in the first place: simply being himself. Since generating stand-up material is derived largely from inner thoughts and personality quirks, Butt used his own natural timing and sense of humour to come up with material for his *Corner Gas* character, Brent Leroy. In fact, the sole distinguishing characteristic between him and his *Corner Gas* counterpart is the shape of their timepieces.

"The interesting thing about my character from *Corner Gas* is that he's basically identical to me," Butt muses. "I didn't know how good of an actor I was so I thought I'd better

make this character as close to me as possible — that way I'd know how to react to situations. I always said the biggest difference between Brent Butt and Brent Leroy was that he wears the square watch and I wear a round watch."

The fact that he relates so closely to his television character is why Butt doesn't mind being known for the show, even years after its cancellation. But content with its six-year run and the resulting legacy, Butt now prefers to look ahead his future endeavours.

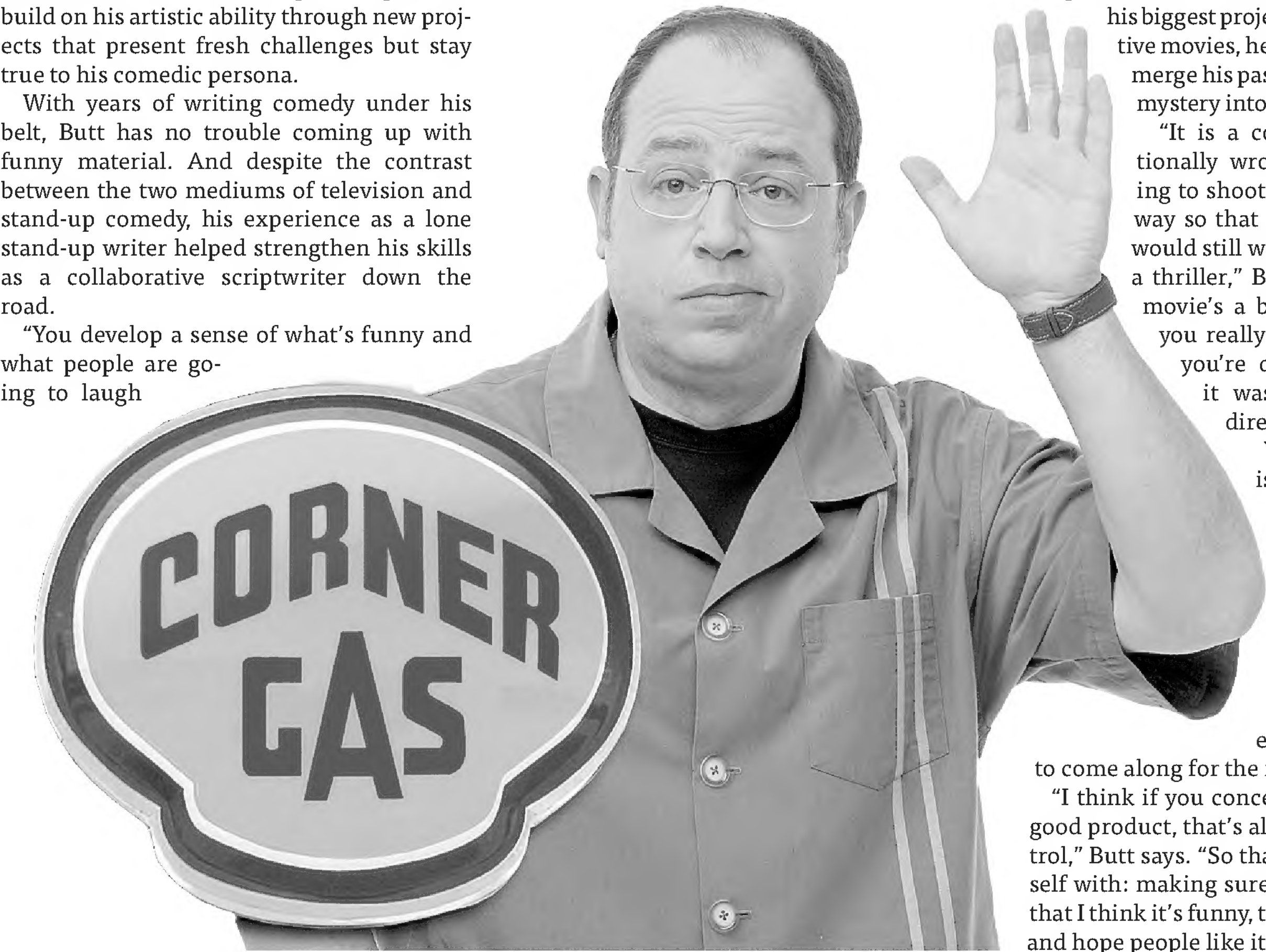
"I had a certain fanbase before *Corner Gas* and I have a much bigger fanbase now because of the show. I still feel blessed about having the chance to do it; it changed my life completely, so I'm all good with it," Butt says.

With his higher profile to fall back on, Butt plans to take full advantage by tackling his biggest project yet. A fan of detective movies, he's now attempting to merge his passion for comedy and mystery into a feature film.

"It is a comedy, but I intentionally wrote it and we're going to shoot it in a very realistic way so that if it wasn't funny, it would still work as a mystery and a thriller," Butt explains. "But a movie's a big, visual feast and you really have to know what you're doing, so I thought it was best that I don't direct."

Whether the film is successful or not, Butt's creative side will push him to continue moving forward with his comedy in one form or another. For now, he's just hoping the audience will be willing to come along for the ride.

"I think if you concentrate on making a good product, that's all you can really control," Butt says. "So that's all I concern myself with: making sure that I'm happy and that I think it's funny, then cross my fingers and hope people like it."





# Americas captures essence of continents through short stories

## BOOK REVIEW

### Americas

WRITTEN BY ➤ Jason Lee Norman  
PUBLISHED BY ➤ Wufniks Press

**April Hudson**

NEWS EDITOR • @APRIL\_HUDSON

*Americas* is not a history book. It's also not a geography lesson, or a lecture on cultural differences — although you'd probably get that impression if you only read the first line of every chapter. *Americas* is not just about the 22 countries that make up the Americas, and Jason Lee Norman is not just a writer who happens to be the author. He's more of an impressionist artist who happens to deal in the medium of words.

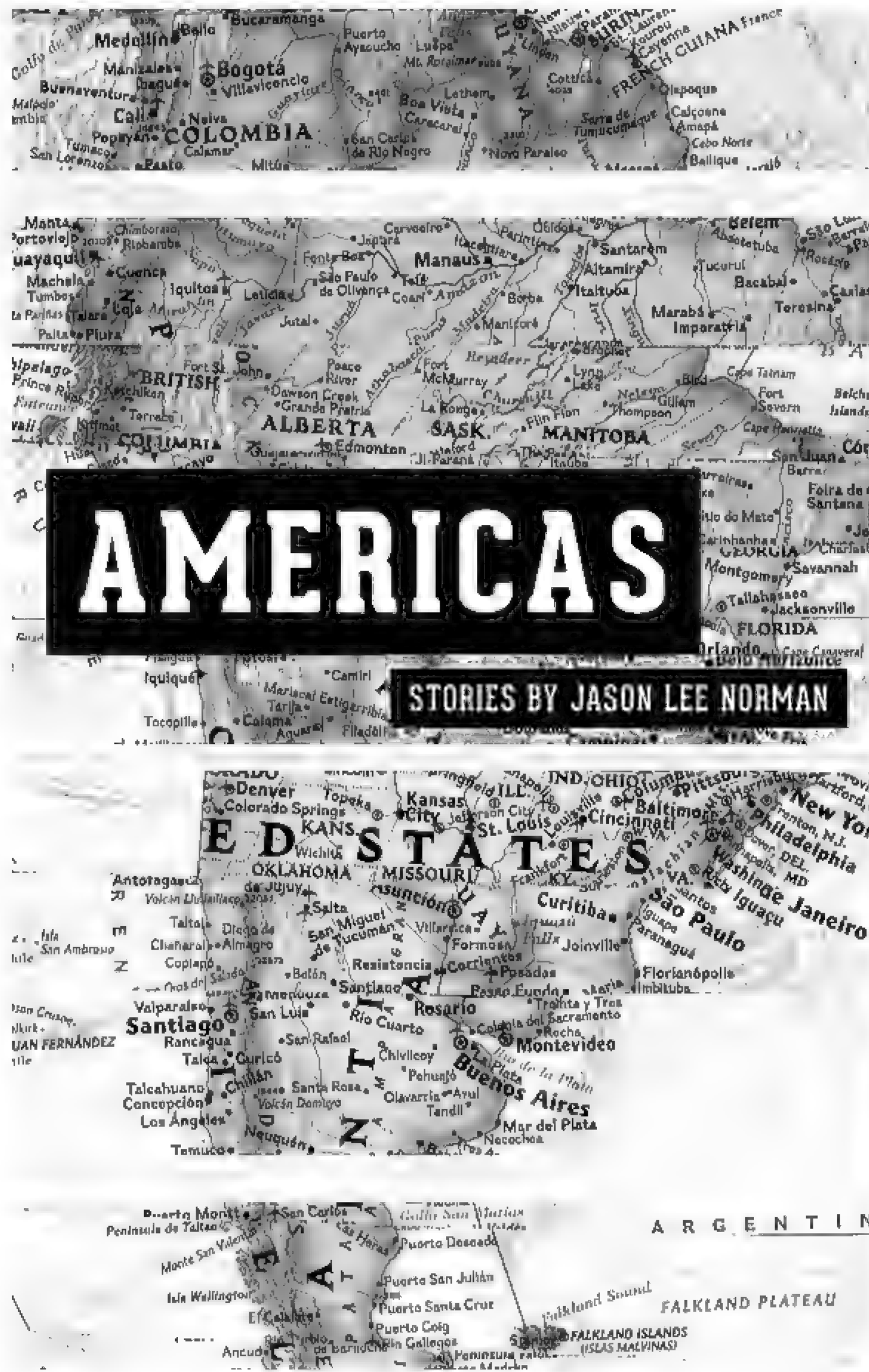
At first, Norman's writing is enchanting enough that you can overlook its faults. But if you love grammar, you'll probably read the first page and want to take a sharp, pointy object to it. After reading a couple chapters, you get the impression that Norman could have written the entire book as one giant run-on sentence and it would have had the exact same effect as his actual writing style.

Broken up into 22 vignettes, each chapter tells the story of one of the countries in the Americas. As a University of Alberta graduate, it's fitting that Norman begins his book in Canada, though he sets out to offend the sensibilities of the average Canadian immediately.

"Canada is a neighbour of the United States of America and there is always a growing fear amongst the Canadian government that all Canadians will forget that they are Canadian and just assume that they are Americans," he writes.

Norman doesn't apologize for these feelings. He doesn't pull any punches either, describing Canada next as an "ant: forever planning for the winter that inevitably comes each year," contrasting that with a happy-go-lucky United States that's always on summer vacation.

As *Americas* goes on, it's sometimes hard to tell whether or not Norman is being intentionally wordy or if he just has a chronic case of verbal diarrhea. "Mexicans see rabbits on the moon," he writes. "Guatemalans have silly holidays to combat decades of military oppression where citizens were banned from dreaming, crying, and looking at their shoes when riding an



elevator. Costa Ricans are obsessed with sand, and Colombia is infested with cats."

Norman continues to paint the countries with his words, and one by one, his strokes get broader. "In Venezuela, all the children were adopted from South Korea," Norman writes. "In Suriname, everybody slept in one morning and they all missed their job interview."

Norman's odd descriptions of each country are intriguing, though at times the sensationalism of his writing style gets old, and his broad generalizations can be hard to pick apart. It begins to feel like you're reading the same Mad Lib over and over, and just choosing different words for each fill-in-the-blank space.

Still, Norman's unusual and potentially inaccessible writing style can be overlooked as he manages to create a unique vision of each country — that's where the real power of this book lies. When I got to the fourth chapter, I forgave

Norman for what he wrote on the first page. I even forgave him for all the eye-rolling run-on sentences and overly dramatic fragments, because he lets the reader stumble onto something bigger.

Norman plays around with truth and fiction in each chapter. Sometimes they're easy to tell apart, and sometimes they aren't — but in the end, Norman is writing about identity. In Norman's world, each country in the Americas is like a member of one big dysfunctional family. He evokes their personalities beautifully, capturing the distinctive qualities that make up every country.

By the time you turn the last page, the Americas are alive and three-dimensional. Whether you love it or hate it — and I don't think there's any in-between with this book — *Americas* conjures up visions of each country, providing a unique perspective into the worlds of both the foreign and the familiar.

frankly illustrates the corruption of love through male deceit and hostility, yet bravely declares "I believe in love" throughout the chorus. This sense of quiet triumph in the wake of frailty is woven throughout the album, and Stone showcases her ability to communicate lyrical depth beyond the vulnerability of her vocals alone. Most notably, she covers The National's "Bloodbuzz Ohio," where she lends a careful, feminine take to a song normally noted for singer Matt Berninger's dark melodrama.

To those familiar with Angus & Julia Stone's work as a duo, it may sound like there's something missing in *By the Horns*. Having said that, Julia Stone offers a powerful recognition of her own exposure and weakness in standing alone, all while celebrating the triumph found in vulnerability.

taste — delicate, lacy, even airing on the side of cartoonish — and frequently used to punctuate her brother's raspy vocals rather than standing on its own. But *By the Horns* is far more than a plain series of commas and apostrophes without the weight of letters and syntax. Her voice is not only showcased, but seems to triumph in its solitude.

The main themes of the album are rooted in the title track, where Stone

## ALBUM REVIEW



### Julia Stone *By the Horns*

Nettwerk Records  
juliastonemusic.com

**Kate Black**

ARTS & CULTURE STAFF • @BLAHBLAHBLACK

While most recognize her from her musical partnership with her brother Angus Stone, Julia Stone is now proving herself as a credible solo act in her own right. With her sophomore solo album, *By the Horns*, the "Big Jet Plane" hitmaker goes beyond merely declaring herself a capable solo artist — she solidifies a new identity both musically and lyrically.

Stone's voice is an acquired

## fashion streeters

COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY **Alana Willerton and Dan McKelvie**



**Madeline Smith**  
ARTS IV

**GATEWAY:** ➤ Describe what you're wearing.

**MADELINE:** ➤ This shirt is from ModCloth, and my pants are from Divine, they're Just USA brand. I got my blue Converse shoes on sale at Gravity Pope and I wear them all the time.

**GATEWAY:** ➤ What's your favourite thing you have on?

**MADELINE:** ➤ My shoes. I like them because they have a thin sole so they don't make my feet look really big.



Check out [thegatewayonline.ca/fashionstreeters](http://thegatewayonline.ca/fashionstreeters) for more photos.





# The Bachelorette as funny as it is trashy



**Alana Willerton**  
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

Come rain or shine, through hell or high water, there's only one place you'll find me on a Monday night this summer: camped out in front of the TV watching *The Bachelorette*. The first time this happened, I consoled myself with the idea that we all have our guilty pleasures, and *The Bachelorette* just happened to be mine. But lately, I've been feeling less and less guilty about my obsession and more and more fascinated with the disaster that is this reality show.

So often shrugged off as yet another trashy piece of reality TV, too few of us have stopped to consider that *The Bachelorette* may just be the pinnacle of summer comedy. Not because it has witty scripts or phenomenal acting — trust me, it doesn't — but because no single hour of television anywhere has more

hilariously awkward moments than an episode of *The Bachelorette*.

Take the latest season, for example. Bachelorette Emily Maynard, who you may recognize as the winner of the 15th season of *The Bachelor*, is the object of affection for 25 guys who're all vying for her heart. In an effort to provide a diverse group of men for Maynard to select from, this year's season included the first black contestant, as well as several single fathers and even an actual hipster named Jef, who is just alternative enough to pull off the pretentious spelling of his name. The rest of the men are the usual batch of accountants and lawyers, topped off by the villain who everyone knows is a bad guy except for the bachelorette.

For all its predictability in its choice of clean-cut men with typical occupations, the amount of cringeworthy yet hilarious moments in this season has been astonishing. Nowhere else do we get to see men make greater fools of themselves with such "honest" intentions. Up until a week ago, one of the men carried an egg around all day as a metaphor for how he would protect Maynard and her daughter. This wasn't your average farm fresh chicken

egg either; I'm talking about a large ostrich egg that they affectionately coined Shelley. This is prime, no-holds-barred reality TV when it comes to the level of ridiculousness achieved, and I'm not ashamed to admit that I revel in it. When the man in question was eventually convinced to smash the egg during last week's episode, a small part of my heart shattered along with Shelley, if only because having her around had been so entertaining.

If you think nothing can top that story, you clearly haven't been paying close enough attention to this season. From one man dressing up as an old lady to impress Maynard to another admitting that he once cheated on his girlfriend to be with his third cousin, *The Bachelorette* has had millions of viewers cringing in delight for weeks now.

For those of you still having trouble buying into it, let me put it this way: *The Bachelorette* is like a train wreck — at times painful to watch, but ultimately, you just can't take your eyes off it. It may be a trashy reality show, but there's no denying it has unintentionally become one of the great comedic masterpieces of the summer.

## ALBUM REVIEW



**Ryan Monroe**  
*A Painting of a Painting on Fire*  
ryanmonroemusic.com

**Katherine Speur**  
ARTS & CULTURE STAFF • @KATHERINESPEUR

Listening to Ryan Monroe is like listening to a decades worth of music condensed into one album. A multi-instrumentalist for Band of Horses, Monroe's first solo album, *A Painting of a Painting on Fire*, is full of contemporary sounds and scratchy guitars that could fool listeners into thinking they're hearing a Black Keys song. At the same time, the singer's high-pitched vocals have a distinctly old-fashioned quality to them, sending listeners back to music from the '60s and '70s.

Some of the tracks feature simple beats and lyrics for a pleasant but mostly unremarkable listening experience. The album's final track, "My Song," resorts to repeating the same lyrics over and over, while others are more complex, like "Shadow in the Shade." Beginning with a gentle piano ballad, the song is anthemic and inspirational by the end. In this instance, Monroe's tendency to mix together a wide variety of styles for each distinctive melody keeps the album fresh and entertaining.

While many will be expecting *A Painting of a Painting on Fire* to fall into the same musical category as Band of Horses, Monroe ultimately defies those expectations with a scattered spread of moods and rhythms.



"Goodbye my friend,  
(I know you're gone, you said you're gone,  
But I can still feel you're here)  
It's not the end,  
(Gotta keep it strong before the pain turns into fear)"  
-SPICE GIRLS, "GOODBYE" (1998)

Like the fleeting era of '90s girl bands, another Gateway Arts & Culture editorship has come to an end. But just like those Spice Girls lyrics you can't forget, we'll be stuck in your head forever.

ARTS MEETINGS WEDNESDAYS AT 4PM IN 3-04 SUB  
**gatewayarts&culture**

online at THEGATEWAYONLINE.CA/ARTS

"Sometimes you can tell a large story with a tiny subject." - ELIOT PORTER

**gatewayphoto**

PHOTO MEETINGS FRIDAYS AT 4 PM IN 3-04 SUB.



# Sports

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Sports meetings Thursdays at 4 p.m. in 3-04 SUB. C'mon by!

## Dell receives golden opportunity at Eskimos camp

Third-year University of Alberta Golden Bears quarterback, Curtis Dell invited to take part in Edmonton Eskimos training camp last week

**Andrew Jeffrey**  
SPORTS EDITOR ■ @ANDREW\_JEFFREY

While his stint playing at the Edmonton Eskimos' rookie camp is over, the lessons Curtis Dell took from his week working with CFL coaches and players will only help the Golden Bears this fall.

The University of Alberta quarterback was invited to play at the Eskimos' rookie camp by Edmonton head coach Kavis Reed. The experience allowed Dell to receive feedback from CFL coaches as well as from both veterans and younger players fighting for a spot on the team.

While going against Edmonton's first string defence and learning the Eskimos' style of offence, it was the atmosphere of the camp that made an impression on Dell.

"The coaches here are really players' coaches. They're phenomenal — they're easy to get along with and pretty relaxed, but there's really a work hard, play hard atmosphere here," Dell explained.

"They have their time for fun and everything, but when it's time to work, it's time to get going. When you're in university, you're with the same coach for two, three, five years, so it's good to get a fresh mind to get instructions from."

Jeff Stead, Dell's head coach at the U of A is also excited about what Dell will bring back to his team. With the higher level of play his quarterback faces going up against Edmonton's defence and the new perspectives and opinions he'll receive from CFL coaches as opposed to the staff he's used to working with. Stead sees the potential in the knowledge Dell can bring back to the Golden Bears.

"I've always found with athletes going there and coming back is they get different points of view of

coaching," Stead said.

"It gives (Dell) a different angle in terms of his learning style. The other thing is it's a faster game there. That's going to give (Dell) an opportunity to play at a different tempo, which is going to be great because now he gets back to us and hopefully the game slows down for him in his own mind."

**Take the numbers off the jersey, take the names off the roster, take off where they went to school — just watch the pros and their footwork and you're asking what school (Dell) went to.**

JEFF STEAD  
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA GOLDEN BEARS FOOTBALL HEAD COACH

Stead thought Dell looked like he belonged, playing on the field with the quarterbacks who were trying to win a spot on the Eskimos' final roster, many of whom have far more experience than the university quarterback. According to Stead, experience is the only intangible lacking from Dell's game. as a CIS player practicing with CFL professionals.

"Take the numbers off the jersey, take the names off the roster, take off where they went to school — just watch the pro and their footwork and you're asking what school (Dell) went to," Stead said.

"What I mean by that is you think of quarterbacks in the CFL and NCAA when you see (Dell) ... The difference is he hasn't played in front of 60,000 people. He hasn't played a game worth millions of dollars, but he's a pretty darn good quarterback."



**GIVE 'EM DELL** The experience Dell (10) gained from training with the Eskimos could improve his team's chances this fall. DAN MCKECHNIE

Dell looks to improve his game further to help the Golden Bears recover from their winless 0-8 season in 2011. Throughout the off-season, he's worked on his footwork and speed, as well as his size and strength to prepare for the coming year. The professional opposition he faced in the Eskimo training camp assisted

his progress in this training, and in Dell's mind, his improvements will bring the entire team closer to reaching the level of excellence they hope to achieve this year.

"Especially on offence with the receivers running routes and timing ... the speed here is a significant increase from the university level,"

Dell said.

"I can't bring the speed back, but I can bring the idea, the philosophy behind the speed, depth of routes back to our receivers. If we can work on that, it makes me one step closer, them one step closer and our whole team one step closer to being where we want."

## Herbers brings history of success to Golden Bears Hockey

**COACH** • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Being an alumni of the U of A's football program before made a coach of Herbers' calibre more available to the U of A, but according to Marple, the main reason Herbers was hired was his pedigree of success. Herbers won a national championship with the Bears and league championships as a player in both the International Hockey League and American Hockey League.

After the Golden Bears didn't go to the national championship tournament last year for the first time since 2007, there is some pressure on Herbers to use his history of success to bring the team back to its former glory.

"Pressure is as much pressure as you put on yourself. I know that's what expectations are, and that's what I expect of myself. We want to come out challenging for a national title every year," Herbers said.

"That doesn't always happen. Some things have to go right for you; some things have to fall into place. You have to get some bounces, but it's about doing all

the groundwork, the work ethic and putting yourself in a position to succeed."

Herbers last coached in the AHL, a feeder league for the National Hockey League where the majority of its players are groomed to play on a parent NHL team.

Marple touted Herbers' ability in developing talent after his team in Milwaukee lost a number of their top players when they were called up to the NHL. Developing players' skills to be able to play for Milwaukee's NHL affiliate, the Nashville Predators, was a priority in Herbers' job.

At the same time, Herbers wants to bring the level of commitment to developing players, both on the ice and off, that his U of A coaches stressed when he was a Golden Bear. When he played under Drake and Moores, the academic and personal development of students were considered equally important to on-ice development.

"It was more than just about hockey, it was the whole experience at the university. You're a student

— you're a part of the university community, and that's a big part of the program," Herbers explained. "There's guys that excelled at both, exceptional students at an elite university and an exceptional hockey player at an elite hockey program. It's all about combining the two."

In his experience, when these ideas are connected, players become more attached to the program, which has contributed to a Golden Bear and Panda alumni group that both Marple and Herbers see as being consistently strong and supportive.

"Looking for ways to improve every day as hockey players and as people is a big part of the program," Herbers explained. "That should come back to the program, just the alumni and the family attitude or feeling of 'once a Bear, always a Bear.'"

### coachspotlight

#### Ian Herbers



**Head Coach**  
**6'4", 225 lbs.**  
**07/16/1967**  
**Jasper, AB**

- Played as a defenceman for the University of Alberta Golden Bears from 1989 to 1992 where he won a national championship in his final season.
- Played 65 games in the NHL in Edmonton, Tampa Bay and New York
- Won the Calder Cup in the American Hockey League with the Cape Breton Oilers in 1993 and the Turner Cup in the International Hockey League with the Detroit Vipers in 1997
- Has 10 years of coaching experience. Spent three years as assistant coach in AHL before taking over as midseason replacement for Milwaukee.

Season	Team	League	GP	W	L	T	OTL	PCT	Reg. Season Finish	Playoffs
2007/08	Johnstown Chiefs	ECHL	72	36	30	0	6	0.542	4th in division	2nd round
2008/09	Johnstown Chiefs	ECHL	72	37	30	0	5	0.549	5th in division	Did not qualify
2010/11	Milwaukee Admirals	AHL	59	30	23	0	6	0.559	2nd in division	1st round



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MATT HIRJI

## U of A athletics restructured

Track and field program boosted by resources now utilized in the Alberta Model

**Andrew Jeffrey**  
SPORTS EDITOR • @ANDREW\_JEFFREY

Under what the University of Alberta Director of Athletics Ian Reade calls his “Alberta Model,” more changes are coming to the University of Alberta’s athletics.

The Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation (FPER) is now restructuring their program. Golden Bears and Pandas athletics falls under FPER’s umbrella, and will use the new model to bring in renowned sports scientists and coaches from the Canadian Athletics Coaching Centre (CACC) and from the FPER’s own graduate students.

As part of the new model, Reade wants to utilize these resources to work with the newly hired Associate Director of Athletics Programming, Wes Moerman, to improve the school’s track and field and cross country programs.

Moerman’s hiring marks this change, as it will be his duty to connect the U of A to the CACC while overseeing the university’s track and field and cross country programs. The coaches Moerman hires for the U of A’s track and field program will benefit from the knowledge they gain from the coaching centre to pass along to their athletes.

“Access will be mainly for the coaches for the Canadian Athletics Coaching Center,” Moerman explained. “But by the coaches having access to more resources, the students are going to see more delivery

on knowledge or support for programs and things of that nature. The athlete is hopefully going to get a more coherent coach-athlete opportunity.”

■ **“With the kinds of athletes and coaches involved in athletics in Edmonton, I really felt like our program was under-performing.”**

IAN READE  
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

Before being hired at the U of A, Moerman worked with the CACC as the manager of national coaching development, where his role was to work with coaches and help them improve. Through connecting U of A coaches to the CACC, new opportunities to improve and develop skills will be available to the U of A’s athletes.

“By having different resources and expertises available to the athletes and to the coaches, I believe it should be a positive change,” Moerman said. “The program is always about getting better and growing. As you pull different people in together, you should be able to move forward quicker.”

Looking into the services offered by the U of A’s FPER and the CACC — which itself sits on campus — was an obvious move for Reade.

In his mind, the U of A wasn’t taking full advantage of the resources available to it, evidenced by the school not winning a national track and field championship since 1985 or a Canada West conference championship since 1983.

“With the facilities we have over at Foote Field and with the Pavilion, with the kinds of athletes and coaches involved in athletics in Edmonton, I really felt like our program was under-performing,” Reade explained.

With assistance now coming from CACC and an integration of more resources available to the school, Reade hopes these changes will improve the U of A’s track and field and cross country teams in pursuit of becoming a consistently strong CIS program that Reade hopes will be an annual contender for the national championship, starting in 2012 when the U of A hosts the CIS national championships from March 7 to 9.

“I would say the structure is there now for it to be the best program in Canada,” he said. “We still need to populate it with a lot more athletes that can win at a national, international level. We need to get the better athletes from Edmonton to stay in Edmonton. As far as the structure, and resources, and the program, I think it’s as good as any in Canada if not better.”

I think the potential’s there to be a national powerhouse in track and field for a long time.”



# Canadians care about the national soccer team? No CAN do



**Jonathan Faerber**  
SPORTS STAFF

Canadians have a love-hate relationship with the celebrated icosahedron.

I am talking, pretentiously, about soccer. we love the sport elsewhere, but hate it in our own country. When the rest of the world is watching it — in the World Cup, for instance, or the upcoming Euros — we easily join the hype, deck ourselves in the colour of our chosen second country (usually the tournament favourites), grab a beer,

and jump on the “beautiful game” bandwagon.

Meanwhile, we frown upon the sport when played locally and nationally, and for good reason too: we suck.

But we suck because most of us couldn't care less, and for good reason. As former Canada captain Jason de Vos puts it, “When we played Mexico or Honduras or El Salvador, it always seemed as though there were more people in the stands supporting our opposition in our own country than there were supporting Canada, so we always went into games knowing that we would have to quiet the crowd a little bit, which is not something you normally need to do at home.”

That's how much we care about

our soccer team. But when it comes to the game, loyalty runs deep, and blood trumps citizenry. For international finals, the Elephant and Castle is packed, and Whyte Avenue in general can be a zoo — and that's just Edmonton. Little Italy, little Portugal or the Scallywags in Toronto are insane at this time.

Meanwhile, on the local scene, we treat FC Edmonton, our “pro” soccer team, like amateurs. And at this university, Bears soccer — one of the least attended of any inter-university sport, including, yes, Pandas soccer — play for their parents and sympathetic friends only, if they're lucky. The bars and pubs, even in this city, easily boast a higher attendance than that.

So why should Canadians give a

damn about the Euros?

Well, the short answer is that the teams playing in this competition are pretty damn good. All of them. Let's put it this way: Canada wouldn't stand a chance, if the team was even eligible.

So for all of us who secretly want to love the sport but refuse to associate with arguably the most pathetic national team in the world, the Euros are an excuse: a way to vicariously experience a winning feeling through “supporting” a country that can actually play. We Canadians may suck at soccer, and we love to hate on our own country, but hey, my Spanish or German or English parents' or grandparents' or great-grandparents' roots mean I actually belong to a country that

can win one of the world's most prestigious sporting competitions.

Or not.

That's where the advantage of being Canadian comes in. When Ukraine gets knocked out, you can embrace their neighbours: Poland. When Poland dies, get behind Germany. Germany doesn't make it? Well, there's Italy, England, France, the Netherlands and Spain.

That's the beauty of multiculturalism: we're all part of the same fabric and can all mutually support whatever team happens to be winning the tournament.

And when we win, we can celebrate. After all, hockey season has ended, summer is long, boring and conveniently full of beer and we need an excuse to drink.

## sports shorts

COMPILED BY **Andrew Jeffrey**

### Golden Bear graduate to play next basketball season in Switzerland

Coming off a season that ended with 79 points in three games during the CIS national championships, Daniel Ferguson, one of the University of Alberta's top basketball players from last year, has signed with BC Boncourt, a team in the top basketball league in Switzerland.

Ferguson spent the off-season thus far playing for the Edmonton Energy, a local minor league team in the International Basketball League. Ferguson has been one of the Energy's most consistent players, averaging 13.9 points per game as well as 3.7 rebounds per game.

Even more impressive is the university career Ferguson leaves behind. Ferguson is a former Canada West First Team All-Star and a former CIS Second Team All-Canadian. In his final year with the U of A, Ferguson finished fourth in the CanWest conference in points per game, averaging 19.7, third in free throw percentage with .860 and first in the conference in minutes played, averaging an impressive 35.7 per game.

Ferguson heads to the Ligue Nationale de Basketball A, where the BCBoncourtRedTeam finished in seventh place out of nine teams last season. But this is familiar territory for Ferguson. The former U of A guard led a Golden Bears team that finished tied for fifth in the CanWest Conference in 2009 and tied for sixth the following year before finishing in second place in the country at nationals this past season.

### Golden Bears golf team break records at University/College Championship

It was a record setting weekend for the University of Alberta on the golf course at the University/College championship.

The Golden Bears set a team record on the third day of the event, shooting a two under 282, the best score ever recorded by a Bears' team on a par 71 course. The team finished in sixth place overall on the weekend, their best-ever finish at the event.

The team was led by fourth-year player Alex Palmer who had the best individual round in Golden Bears' history when he shot a five under 66 on the final day of the championship that was held in Victoria, BC. Palmer placed 15th overall individually. The tournament was eventually won by the Laval Rouge et Or.

Meanwhile, the Pandas didn't have as strong of a tournament.

The U of A missed the cut on the third day by two strokes, finishing in sixth place overall while the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds won the championship on the women's side.

### Pandas soccer coach to lead team Canada at 2013 university games

Canada's women's soccer team will be led into the 2013 Summer Universiade next year by none other than current Pandas head coach Liz Jepsen.

Jepsen was appointed head coach by Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) for this event, which will take place in Kazan, Russia for the 27th world university summer games from July 6 to 17. She'll be joined by UBC's Mark Rogers as assistant coach and Ryerson's Kevin Souter as team leader.

The Pandas recently finished in second place in the Canada West conference this past season. It

was the team's best position since the 2001-02 season when the U of A won its last CanWest championship. Their runner up finish last year represented a gradual climb up the rankings since she took over a team that finished in fifth place in their conference in 2005.

The U of A coach also previously worked as an assistant coach at the Games in 2009. The 2011 edition of this biennial competition saw Canada finish in fifth place. CIS hopes to see that finish improve next year with a head coach who has been named Canada West coach of the year twice and CIS coach of the year on one other occasion in 2006.

Jepsen also has international experience taking the Alberta under-15 and under-16 teams for competitions in the United States against NCAA teams numerous times and on a tour of Brazil in 2011.

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# Diversions

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Comics meetings Mondays at 5 p.m. in 3-04 SUB. C'mon by!

## COMICS

THE ADVENTURES OF RORY TIGHE II: TURBO by Gateway Staff



## DRAWINGS OF THE MONTH



**SINESTRO** Arch-nemesis to DC Comics' *Green Lantern* poses angrily in his dank studio apartment. ROSS VINCENT



**DARK PHOENIX** Evil persona of the X-Men's Jean Grey creates a thematic friend for herself. ROSS VINCENT

## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



**HAVE A SEAT** Cliff Vallengoed from Redbike shows off some of the store's bicycles. DAN MCKECHNIE